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# Torrance Herald

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## NEW BIDS ON BOND ISSUE TO BE OPENED ON TUESDAY

**Council Authorizes New Advertisement For Bids On Sale of \$200,000 Bond Issue; Fire Alarm System Asked For South Torrance District**

New bids on the proposed issue of \$200,000 in water bonds have been asked for and will be opened at the meeting of the city council to be held next Tuesday night, September 18.

Failure of the bond companies to submit bids when the bonds were offered recently, placed the city council in the necessity of revising their offer, to the extent of making a change in the interest rate. Under the amended ordinance which was passed for the first reading last Tuesday evening, the interest rate has been raised and the bonds are offered to bear interest of "not to exceed 6 per cent."

This specification gives the council the opportunity to accept bids under that amount if any are offered, and it is expected that in view of the attitude of bond company representatives who were present at the meeting when bids were first asked, there will be some offers, but whether they will make it possible for the city to save on the proposed interest rate will, naturally, not be known until the bids are opened.

Advertising for bidders was authorized at the Tuesday evening session to be placed this week, and the date September 18 fixed for opening and considering bids.

**Alarm System Requested**  
Other than consideration of the amended ordinance, and its attendant resolution, little business was transacted at this meeting. A petition from residents of South Torrance asking for a system of fire alarms to be placed at convenient points in that area was referred to the police and fire departments for investigation. At the present time there is no direct communication by telephone with the fire department in Torrance, as all telephones in this district are still on the Lomita exchange. There are few telephones among the residents of South Torrance, and houses are widely scattered, so that there is considerable delay in turning in an alarm. A recommendation as to an adequate service will be made at the next meeting of the council.

Copies of a resolution adopted by Los Angeles city council and Chamber of Commerce which have been forwarded to Washington for consideration, were placed before the council with a request for concurrence. The resolution asks for an appropriation of funds to be distributed by the SERRA for the purchase of materials necessary to relief work. No provision is now made for purchasing materials or for renting machinery, which must be paid for by municipalities offering projects.

**Unfair Competition**  
Request for the appointment of a plumbing inspector, to work either full or part time, brought on a considerable discussion in connection with the proposed revision of the plumbing ordinance. Complaints are being received from contractors in Torrance that much work is now being done in the city by unlicensed individuals, for which work no permits have been taken out as called for by the existing city laws.

It was pointed out that this condition has existed for years, in spite of efforts to correct it, and that very likely it would continue to exist, as it is almost impossible to check up on such activities. No action was taken in regard to appointing a plumbing inspector. This work is now being handled by the assistant city engineer, who inspects work done under city permit.

**Hydrants Need Repair**  
Chairman Stanger of the police and fire committee was authorized to withhold payment of monthly rental fees from the water company serving the district in which he found to be in such condition as to render it useless. Councilman Stanger reported that a number of hydrants in that district are practically out of commission, and that efforts to have repairs made had not been successful. A rental fee is paid by the city, and the water company is charged with the responsibility of keeping the hydrants in good repair so that fire hazards are kept down to a minimum.

**HOSTILITIES QUIETED IN NEIGHBORHOOD STRIFE**  
Hostilities between Mexican and American were quieted by police Saturday, with no casualties reported. A children's quarrel which brought to the scene the older members of the respective Mexican and Armenian families residing on Anapola avenue, was the contributing cause.

**GRASS FIRE**  
The Torrance fire department was called to Carson street between Denker and Adelaide yesterday afternoon where burning grass threatened a garage and the Carson court.

## Pistol Teams To Be Organized By Police Officers

**Men and Women of Torrance Invited to Attend Meeting Monday Night**

How many men and women in Torrance would like to become expert pistol marksmen? The Torrance police department would like to know. Members of the department are planning to organize several teams of local citizens, to practice over the city range and prepare themselves for tournament shooting to be held later as the marksmen improve.

All those who wish to take part in this game of skill, which might prove useful in emergencies, are requested to come to the police station next Monday evening, September 17, at 7 o'clock, where Police Sergeant John Stroh will explain the details.

Already, due to preliminary discussion, about 15 men have signified their interest in such a project.

The women are also cordially invited to attend the meeting and to organize teams.

Weapons to be used are the standard .38, and the practice shoots will be held under the regular rules.

While it is not expected that Torrance will immediately develop a pistol team which can rival the champion Los Angeles team, no doubt those who take part in the practice will derive a great deal of satisfaction out of it, and perhaps later on will be able to hold their own with some of the crack teams of the country.

Pistol practice develops a keen eye, steady hand and nerves, and in these days of highway robbery and widespread banditry of all descriptions may be of value at some unlooked for moment.

## Local Candidates For Committeemen Lose At Primary

Democratic candidates for county central committee who were elected at the primary are Albert E. Porrest, who received 5325 votes; Donald R. MacGregor, 4781; William Myeracough, 4643; Harry M. Randall, 5168; Alva C. Stone, 5277; and Stephen Romich, 4432.

Local candidates for the office were Robert F. Lessing, James J. O'Toole and George F. Shilder. Republican members of the county central committee are Stephen M. Cope, William S. Lepper, Marguerite A. Mann, E. E. Mosher, Leslie G. Mott, Joe Raycraft and James H. Scott.

## Gym Classes For Adults Planned

**Many Other Entertainment Features Offered at Recreation Center**

Playgrounds will continue to be open during the school term. Workers are planning many special events for evenings and Saturdays. The ball park and recreation center will be open Sundays from 1 to 5 p. m. Games and story telling will be featured.

The center will be open Friday and Saturday evenings for roller skating, dancing and social games. Two evenings each week will be reserved for adult recreation. There will be adult gym classes, community singing and card games, checkers, dominoes and shuffleboard.

Clubs are urged to come to the recreation center in groups. Miss Odell will be happy to organize classes in music, dramatics, arts and crafts, or whatever may be most desirable.

Chaperones for parties or groups of young people may be secured by calling on Miss Odell at the recreation center, Cabrillo avenue. A special dancing party and entertainment has been arranged for this evening at 8:00 o'clock. A beach party has been arranged for Saturday, September 15. Buses will leave the center on Cabrillo avenue, at 8:00 a. m.

Twenty-six children are enrolled in the music classes at the Pueblo playground. Practice work is done through a paper keyboard and each child is allowed in turn to play on the piano.

## GRIM REMINDER OF TRAGEDY



Here is one of the lifeboats of ill-fated Morro Castle, washed ashore on New Jersey coast.

## GOOD FIRST DAY ENROLLMENT REPORTED BY LOCAL SCHOOLS

**Torrance Elementary Reports Gain of 60 Over Last Year's Registration; New Principals At Two Torrance Schools; Lomita Figures Show Gain**

Enrollment of students at the seven schools in the Torrance and Lomita area occupied the morning hours Tuesday, September 11, with the opening of the new semester. In one or two instances registration fell slightly below the figures of last year, but it is expected that the difference will be made up within the first week by the enrollment of late comers.

At the Torrance high school figures compiled at the close of the opening day showed 632 registrations which will probably be considerably increased when all home rooms have been checked and new registrations during the week added.

Very little confusion resulted from the reconstruction work which is now going on. Students found their places readily and soon became familiar with the tent city which will house them for the next few months. Classes were held during the day and assignments for work given out. Football practice started on Woods Field and all departments of the school were in running order by the end of the first day.

At the Torrance elementary school, William Hall, Jr., principal, 723 pupils registered, which is a gain of 60 over last year's figures. Fern avenue school, Mrs. Oda Vans, principal, reported a registration of 378 which Mrs. Vans expects will be increased by late enrollment during the week.

At Waveria, Principal Dorothy Louke Smith reported attendance figures of 118, and three new teachers besides herself. They are Mrs. Christiansen, in charge of the B-3, A3 and B-4 classes; Mrs. Ellis, A-4, B-5 and A-5; and Miss Florence Shelly, B-2 and A-2. Miss Smith comes from the 64th street, Los Angeles school, replacing Maria Halbach who has been transferred to the 11th street school in Los Angeles.

At the Orange street elementary school in South Lomita, there were no changes in personnel. No new teachers have been employed here, according to Miss Hilda Jellison, principal. Enrollment reached the total of 223 pupils, including the kindergarten. In this department additional pupils were expected to register during the afternoon session on Tuesday which would bring the figures up to approximately last year's total.

Prospects for reconstruction work on the Orange street school are not an immediate prospect. It is believed that work will start here in November, but as yet no indications have come from the city.

**TURN TO STORY ONE**  
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## New Federal Act Requires Registration of Small Arms

John P. Carter, collector of internal revenue, announced today that he had received a ruling which states definitely what kind of guns must be registered under the National Firearms Act.

All shot guns and rifles having barrels less than 18 inches in length, must be registered. So called "Auto-matic" pistols and sub-machine guns and all silencers must be registered. All other firearms which can be carried on the person must be registered only in case they automatically discharge more than one shot with one pull of the trigger. So called "Auto-matic" pistols and revolvers which reload automatically but discharge only one shot with each pull of the trigger, do not have to be registered.

All individuals owning firearms subject to registration under the above ruling must call at the collector's office, 989 South Broadway, Los Angeles, or at branch offices in other cities and register the same. The penalty for failure to register firearms is \$2000.00 or five years imprisonment, or both.

## Members of Band Plead Guilty To Felony Charges

**Kidnapers of Torrance Couple Brought to Trial In Superior Court**

Members of the gang who were identified by William Parke recently as the men who held him and Miss Mae Guy prisoners for several hours while two of the party commandeered Parke's motorcycle and rode away to perpetrate a hold-up in the Palms Verdes hills a short time ago, were brought to trial in the superior court, Los Angeles, this week.

Four men and one woman had been arrested on charges of kidnaping and robbing John Jesko, former chauffeur of the late Lon Chaney, and his wife, and at the show-up held by police in attempting to connect the band with other crimes committed in this vicinity Parke identified one of the men who was wearing Parke's leather coat, taken from him on the night he and his girl companion fell into the hands of the gang.

At the opening of the trial the five defendants entered a plea of guilty. Ida Mae Alameda, plead guilty to two counts of robbery. Floyd C. Britton and C. B. Russell plead guilty to counts of kidnaping and robbery and George Dorsey and Manuel Gordoa to counts of robbery. They will receive sentences later.

The same outfit are said to have held up Clyde Bodley, also of Torrance, and a woman companion some time previous to the date when Parke and Miss Guy were captured by the band. Bodley and his friend were robbed of money and wrist watches, for the recovery of which they later paid a sum of money to one of the alleged bandits.

## Work to Begin On Widening of Catalina Avenue

Work on widening and grading Catalina avenue in the Hollywood Riviera in the city of Torrance will begin shortly, according to City Engineer Frank Leonard, who reported to the city council Tuesday night that the work had been approved as a SERRA project.

Catalina avenue is the principal link between Hollywood Riviera and the Palms Verdes Estates, following the coast line and passing the west side of the slope used as a slider field.

It is well traveled and its improvement with grading and shoulders will benefit a considerable number of motorists. Paving of the extra width will be done later to be paid for out of gasoline tax funds.

The present job will give work to a crew of 117 men.

## Sewer Project Half Finished

**Work Started Under CWA Being Completed By SERRA Forces**

The Lomita sanitary sewer project today stands approximately 60 per cent completed, according to the county surveyor's office.

The project, which represents an outright gift to Lomita residents and property owners amounting to more than a quarter of a million dollars, stood 53 per cent completed last Friday. The project is being carried out to schedule, with the SERRA working days having been utilized in getting it 53 per cent completed.

Left unfinished by the CWA when the CWA was disbanded, the SERRA took over the job. The percentage figure refers to the per cent of work left to the SERRA as a whole, is considerably more than 53 per cent completed, he said.

Only men with dependents are given work on these sanitary sewer projects throughout the county, and the project could be rushed through faster if a full quota of men could be obtained. It was stated. The men work in three-day shifts, the shifts changing twice in a six-day work week.

## BUILDING TRADESMEN CALLED TO MEETING TUESDAY NIGHT

**Chamber of Commerce Issues Call for Representatives to Discuss Plan for Contacting Property Owners Who May Come Under Better Housing Act Terms**

Under a call from the Chamber of Commerce, sent out this week, dealers in building materials and equipment, builders, contractors and building tradesmen, will meet at the Chamber of Commerce rooms next Tuesday evening, September 18, at 7:30 to consider a definite plan for promoting action on the federal Better Housing act.

According to Secretary L. J. Gilmelater, the plan proposes to place in the hands of a selected list of property owners in Torrance, an official pamphlet issued by federal authorities, which gives information in detail.

This information has been the source of many newspaper and magazine articles promoting the rehabilitation plan, and in pamphlet form is concise, direct and covers all points on which information is required.

Each home owner who receives the pamphlet will find enclosed a postcard on which to return to the Chamber of Commerce certain information to his intentions with reference to improvements his property needs or which he feels are desirable and worthy.

Further contacts can then be made with the parties who are willing to co-operate in getting the movement under way in this city. The plan to approach the property owners in this manner will make those in the building trades the principal committee in charge of promoting the work, which is as it should be since they will derive immediate benefits from its success.

At a meeting held Friday evening, September 7, at the Woman's clubhouse, when District Director F. W. Marlow attended and spoke on the Better Housing act, a number of interested persons were present. The decision to call another meeting to start the campaign in Torrance was the result of Marlow's appearance here and his explanations of the benefits of the act.

Campaigns are under way in other communities with considerable success in many localities. The situation in Torrance is somewhat complicated by the fact that there is a large percentage of absentee owners, persons who have invested money here in rentals and whose homes are elsewhere. This class of owners, perhaps, would not be keenly alive to the civic benefits of concerted action in improving, beautifying property.

Those who live here are interested from the angle of improvement to their own property, but the added attractiveness of the city. Many houses in Torrance need new paint, new roofs, new additions, new landscape work, walks, driveways. Household appliances are needed, and those of a permanent nature can be installed. Not only dwellings, but business houses, stores, buildings, factories, come under the terms of the Better Housing act. Money is now ready and waiting for borrowers.

Prompt action is desirable, for as Mr. Marlow pointed out in his talk on Friday, those who make up their minds late, may find that their funds have all been loaned out.

## Democratic Club Elects Officers

The regular meeting of the Torrance Democratic Club was held Wednesday evening at their headquarters, 1313 Sartori avenue, with an unusually large attendance. All of the officers of the former Lincoln club were re-elected and four additional members were placed on the executive committee, chosen from the new membership.

The ladies of the club made final arrangements for a card party to be held on Monday evening, September 17, and reported that already a large number of tickets had been sold.

## Drum and Bugle Corp Continued

Decision to continue the work of the drum and bugle corps for another year, was reached at a meeting of Legionnaires of Bert S. Crossland Post, held at Earl's Cafe last night. Alex McPhail, Percy Phoenix and Ray Cooke were in charge of the meeting. Officers will be elected at another session to be held next Wednesday, and all service men who are former members of the corps or who wish to join are invited to attend.

The drum corps is already planning to compete at the state convention at Fresno next summer.

**TORRANCE DAY AT L. A. COUNTY FAIR**  
Thursday, September 20, will be Torrance day at the Los Angeles county fair at Pomona which opens next Saturday.

**HOME FROM VACATION**  
J. E. McMaster of the Torrance fire department returned yesterday from a few days' vacation, spent in Ventura county at Cedar Pines and Seven Oaks. John Fess accompanied McMaster to Cedar Pines and George Russ to Seven Oaks.